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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/807,222	09/28/2001	Toshiaki Nagai	109159	5955

7590 08/30/2005
Oliff & Berridge
P O Box 19928
Alexandria, VA 22320

EXAMINER

VIG, NARESH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/807,222	NAGAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Naresh Vig	3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, Claims 1 – 3 drawn to a network trading system which is equipped with a management server for network trading among members having been registered in advance which receives biometric information about the member to determine whether or not the member is an authorized member.

Group II, Claims 4 – 5 drawn to method for registering a member for network trading among members wherein registration of a member involves a temporary registration step in which a person sends information about himself to the management server by way of the network; management server delivers means for inputting biometric information to the person who desires registration; person sends his biometric information to the management server using the means for entering biometric information; management server storing the biometric information received from the person.

Group III, Claims 6 – 13 and 20 – 23 drawn to method of trading among predetermined members through use of a management server having an electronic bulletin board function wherein an invitation to invite applications is transmitted to management server by way of a network; posting on an electronic bulletin board the invitation that has been transmitted; in response to the invitation of applications posted on the electronic bulletin board, members send information about their intangible or tangible assets to the management server by way of the network; management server stores the applications that have been transmitted; member accesses the management server for browsing the stored applications; and, member selects a desired application from the applications having been browsed and sends the result of selection to the management server, management server identifies the member who has invited applications and the members who have filed applications and allows them to access the management server only when they are identified as authorized members.

Group IV, Claims 14 – 24 drawn to a method of network trading among predetermined members through use of a management server having an electronic bulletin board function, the method wherein member sends an intangible or tangible asset for which a member desires to launch sale to the management server; posting sale on an electronic bulletin board the sale that has been transmitted; members browse the sale posted on the electronic bulletin board; members send, to the management server messages reporting adoption of the intangible or tangible asset in

response to the sale posted on the electronic bulletin board; member accesses the management server by way of the network, thereby browsing the stored messages; member selects one or more desired offer(s) from the messages and sends the result of selection to the management server; management server identifies the member who has launched sale of his idea and the members who have offered adoption as authorized members and allows them to access the management server only when they have been identified as authorized members.

Group V, Claims 25 – 27 drawn to a management server used in a network trading system comprising general WWW means for providing a WEB page browsable by the general public as well as by members; and members-only WWW means for providing a WEB page browsable by members only; personal authentication means for inspecting biometric information that has been transmitted by way of a network and identifying whether or not a person who has sent the information is an authorized member; allows browsing by only a person who has been determined to be an authorized member by the personal authentication means.

The inventions listed as Groups I & V do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group I is drawn to a network trading system whereas. Group V is drawn to a management server.

The inventions listed as Groups II, III & IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the

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same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group II is drawn to drawn to method for registering a member for network trading among members whereas Groups III and IV are drawn to method of trading among predetermined members through use of a management server having an electronic bulletin board function.

The inventions listed as Groups III & IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group III allows member to select a desired application from the applications having been browsed and sends the result of selection to the management server, whereas, Group IV allows member to selects one or more desired offer(s) from the messages and sends the result of selection to the management server.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

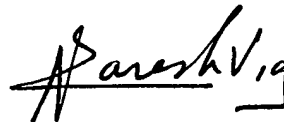
Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is (571) 272-6810. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 6:00 (Wednesday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Naresh Vig", with a stylized flourish at the end.

August 25, 2005

Naresh Vig
Examiner
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